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# Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OFA-01

DLOS-04 INT-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01

IO-10 SAM-01 EURE-00 /091 W
---------- 069590
P 011031Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 910
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
IRUEHDT/USMISSION USUN 2196

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR
SUBJ: TURKISH NOTE ON AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: A. ANKARA 7305, B. ATHENS 7350

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A TURKISH DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF PRESENTED TO GREEK EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 30.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE AND IN VIEW OF THE RECENT DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN REALISING THE LONG EXPECTED MEETING OF TURKISH AND GREEK EXPERTS TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, HAS THE HONOUR TO BRING THE FOLLOWING TO THEIR ATTENTION:

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT THE DISPUTE OVER THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF BE RESOLVED THROUGH
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NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AS THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE

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POLICY OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT
CONSIDERS THAT UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD WILL ONLY CREATE
NEW PROBLEMS RATHER THAN SOLVING EXISTING ONES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS GENERAL POLICY, THIS MINISTRY IN
ITS NOTE NUMBER SIGM/SIMD 3-754.737-31 OF 6 FEBRUARY
1975 WHILE PROPOSING THAT THE QUESTIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND
GREECE RELATING TO THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF BE SOLVED THROUGH
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, AT THE SAME TIME INDICATED THAT TURKEY DID
NOT OBJECT TO THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT THE DISPUTE TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, PROVIDED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE
WITH THE EXPLICIT CONSENT OF BOTH PARTIES.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE SAID NOTE
A MEETING WAS ARRANGED ON 17-19 MAY 1975 IN ROME BETWEEN THE
TURKISH AND GREEK FOREIGN MINISTERS TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR
NEGOTIATIONS AT EXPERTS LEVEL. TURKEY PUT FORTH IN ROME THAT IT
WILL NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO SUBMIT THE
DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE WITHOUT FIRST ATTEMPTIN
G
MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE GREECE ARGUED THAT THE DISPUTE BE
TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE COURT.

THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT THE PECULIARTIES
OF THE AEGEAN SEA CREATED COMPLEX PROBLEMS. SOME ASPECTS OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF CONCEPT ARE YET TO BE ESTABLISHED. FOR THIS
REASON THE PRINCIPLES TO BE APPLIED CAN BEST BE DETERMINED
BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER
FINALLY SUGGESTED IN ROME THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF JOINT
EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE
AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF COULD ALSO BE ENVISAGED BETWEEN TURKEY
AND GREECE.

THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO SUGGESTED THAT
NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE
AEGEAN SEA SHOULD TAKE PLACE PARALLEL WITH THE PREPARATION OF A
DRAFT SPECIAL AGREEMENT, ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. THIS FORMULA
WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED BY GREECE AND FURTHER COCFIRMED AT THE
MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS ON 30 MAY 1975 BETWEEM TE
PRCME MINISTERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN BRUSSELS IT WAS ALSO
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DECIDED THAT THE TWO PARTIES WOULD INITIATE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS
CONCERNING ALL THEIR PROBLEMS. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS ALSO AGREED
UPON THAT THOSE ISSUES RELATING TO THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF
AREAS WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE
JOINTLY SUMBITTED TO THE COURT.

THE ABOVE- MENTIONED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES
EMANATED THEN FROM THEIR COMMON DESIRE TO RESOLVE THEIR DISPUTE

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BY WAY OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD RECONCILE THEIR
RESPECTIVE VIEWS AND POSITIONS.

HOWEVER, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, CONTRARY TO THIS
UNDERSTANDING RECENTLY ATTEMPTED TO REASSERT ITS PREVIOUS POINT
OF VIEW BY INSISTING THAT EXPERT LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ENVISAGED TO
BE HELD IN PARIS BETWEEN 25-27 SEPTEMBER 1975 SHOULD DIRECTLY
AND EXLCUSIVELY BE LIMITED TO THE DRAFTING OF A SPECIAL AGREEMENT.
THIS POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE PREVENTED THE
REALIZATION OF THE SAID MEETING. IN THE OPINION OF THE TURKISH
GOVERNMENT THE PARIS MEETING WHICH DID NOT TAKE PLACE IS A LOST
OPPORTUNITY. AT THIS MEETING A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF ALL ISSUES
RELATED TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE AEGEAN COULD HAVE BEEN
EMBARKED UPON, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE JOINT DRAFTING OF THE
SPECIAL AGREEMENT COULD HAVE BEEN INITIATED.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ALSO CONSIDERS THAT THE
RECENT POSITION TAKEN BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN THIS RESPECT
IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF ARTICLE 33 OF THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS. FURTHERMORE CONCERNING THE DELIMITATION OF
MARINE AREAS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS A SPECIFIC OBLIGATION
FOR THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT REITERATES ONCE MORE ITS POINT
OF VIEW THAT THE BEST METHOD OF SOLVING THESE DIFFERENCES IS
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, A JUST AND FAIR AGREEMENT BASED ON
EQUITABLE PRINCIPLES. THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
PRINCIPLE ANDIN A SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL AND CONCILIATION THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT CALLS UPON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO
ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE THE ASSURANCES
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OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.

2. MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF AEGEAN MATTERS RIZA TURMEN,
DISCUSSING THE MFA NOTE WITH EMBOFF, WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT
GREEK RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE. HIS EXPLANATION OF NOTE
BASICALLY MADE SAME POINTS AS MADE BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SOYLEMEZ (REF. A). TURMEN SAID
ANYONE COULD INTERPRET BRUSSELS AGREEMENT AS THEY WISHED SINCE
IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THERE HAD ONLY BEEN A VERBAL AGREEMENT
THAT NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTE
BILATERALLY AS WELL AS PREPARE COMPROMIS ON AREAS OF DISPUTE TO
BE SUBMITTED TO ICJ. TURMEN SAID GOT READY TO NEGOTIATE AND
THAT OCTOBER PARTIAL SENATE ELECTIONS HAD NOT BEEN A FACTOR IN
THE GOT DECISION TO NEGOTIATE. OUR READING OF BRUSSELS'
COMMUNIQUE IS THAT ITS WORDING WAS SUFFICIENTLY IMPRECISE TO

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PERMIT DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO US
GOT IS STRETCHING INTERPRETATION TO SUIT ITS OWN PURPOSES.
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# Message Attributes

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